

*Implementation Plan for Recommendation II.B1., Incorporate health and health equity criteria into State grant Requests for Applications, review criteria and scoring, technical assistance, and monitoring/performance measures, where feasible and appropriate.*

Health in All Policies Task Force Implementation Plan  
*Health and Health Equity Criteria in State Grants*  
October 21, 2011

## **I. The Health in All Policies Task Force**

The Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force is a multi-agency effort to improve state policy and decision-making by encouraging collaborative work towards health and sustainability goals by incorporating health considerations into non-health policy areas. After an in-depth process that included input from health and policy experts, the public, and extensive Task Force discussions, the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) approved eleven priority recommendations and charged the Task Force with developing implementation plans.

The HiAP Task Force is comprised of the following agencies, departments, and offices: Air Resources Board; Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency; Department of Community Services and Development; Department of Education; Department of Finance; Department of Food and Agriculture; Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Justice; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Social Services; Department of Transportation; Environmental Protection Agency; Governor's Office of Planning and Research; Health and Human Services Agency; Labor and Workforce Development Agency; Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy (Funding was abolished in the 2011/12 budget; OGYVP will close on December 31, 2011.); Office of Traffic Safety. In addition, the Task Force is staffed and facilitated by the California Department of Public Health.

## **II. Goals and Objectives**

### Goals

*Aspirational Goal:* California's decision makers are informed about the health consequences of various policy options during the policy development process.\*

The aspirational goal above provided the structure for the development of recommendations highlighting ways to more consciously and conscientiously identify win-win strategies that will help attain better health and achieve other important sustainability goals. Achievement of this goal will require efforts across California, both within and outside government, at the state, regional, and local levels, and over many years. This implementation plan represents a first step by the HiAP Task Force towards this goal.

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\* Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council, December 3, 2010. Available at [http://www.sgc.ca.gov/hiap/docs/publications/HiAP\\_Task\\_Force\\_Report.pdf](http://www.sgc.ca.gov/hiap/docs/publications/HiAP_Task_Force_Report.pdf).

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This implementation plan outlines an initial set of activities to advance Recommendation II.B1, “Incorporate health and health equity criteria into State grant Requests for Applications, review criteria and scoring, technical assistance, and monitoring/performance measures, where feasible and appropriate.”\* This recommendation was one of three recommendations that were made by the Task Force to advance the goal of embedding health in decision making. For more information on additional HiAP Task Force recommendations related to promoting healthy public policy, please refer to the *HiAP Task Force Report to the SGC*.\*

### Objectives

Two objectives will be pursued in order make progress on incorporating health and health equity criteria into State grant Requests for Applications, review criteria and scoring, technical assistance, and monitoring/performance measures, where feasible and appropriate.

1. Evaluate health, health equity, and sustainability criteria in recent Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks), Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and SGC Requests for Proposals (RFPs).
2. Develop recommendations to assist state agencies in incorporating health and health equity criteria into grant applications.

### **III. Rationale**

Health and health equity are critical components of sustainable communities, and can be considered in the planning phase of grant-funded efforts. Combined with strategically-targeted technical assistance, health and health equity criteria can ensure that state funding supports measurable improvements to communities and directs funds towards projects that promote sustainable community development, thereby improving short- and long-term health and health equity outcomes. Health equity criteria are one way to help vulnerable and disadvantaged communities receive the resources and technical assistance they need, increasing the State’s ability to achieve broad sustainability, health, and equity goals.

Health and health equity have already been incorporated into criteria for a variety of grants, including both the SGC’s Proposition 84-funded Urban Greening and Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Programs, as well as the Department of Housing and Community Development’s (HCD) Catalyst Community Grant Program. Through its Healthy Food Initiative, Parks has incorporated language supporting provision of healthy food and beverage items and use of ingredients from California in its latest RFPs for California State Park concessions. CAL FIRE has also incorporated health criteria into some of their grant application and review processes. Evaluating the effectiveness of these grant criteria in promoting activities that effectively support health and sustainability can provide information and evidence for inclusion of health and health equity criteria moving forward.

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#### **IV. Resources**

This project will be supported by contributed time from HiAP staff as well as staff in agencies currently utilizing health criteria in their RFPs. There are no direct funds to support this implementation plan.

#### **V. Workplan Narrative**

*Action Step 1: Interview partner agencies regarding incorporation of health and health equity criteria into recent requests for proposals.*

HiAP staff will interview staff at the SGC, CAL FIRE, HCD, and Parks to learn about their experiences developing health, health equity, and sustainability criteria, scoring applications, and any successes and challenges, including feedback received from applicants. HiAP staff plan to interview those involved in developing grant criteria, as well as those who reviewed submitted proposals.

*Action Step 2: Survey grant applicants regarding impact of health and health equity criteria on project selection, application, and implementation.*

In coordination with partner agencies, HiAP staff will conduct an online survey of staff at organizations that applied for funding or contracts from the SGC, CAL FIRE, HCD, and Parks in order to understand how these criteria impacted project selection and application development, and for funded projects, how the criteria impacted project implementation.

*Action Step 3: Compile results and develop summary of results.*

HiAP staff will compile and summarize the survey results in a written document.

*Action Step 4: Draft recommendations and resources for agencies interested in incorporating health and health equity into requests for proposals.*

Based on survey and interview results, HiAP staff will develop a document that will include recommendations and resources for agencies, departments, and offices interested in incorporating health and health equity criteria into future RFPs, as well as case studies of those already doing so.

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## VI. Workplan Summary

Duration: 12 months

Note: HiAP staff (CDPH) will have primary responsibility for all Action Steps, with support from partner agencies.

Aspirational Goal: California's decision makers are informed about the health consequences of various policy options during the policy development process.				
Recommendation: Incorporate health and health equity criteria into State grant Requests for Applications, review criteria and scoring, technical assistance, and monitoring/performance measures, where feasible and appropriate.				
Action Step		Participating Agency(ies)	Deliverable	Timeline
Objective 1. Evaluate health, health equity, and sustainability criteria in recent Parks, CAL FIRE, and SGC RFPs.				
1	Interview partner agencies regarding incorporation of health and health equity into requests for proposals.	CDPH, Parks, HCD, SGC, CAL FIRE	Interview notes	January 2012 - March 2012
2	Survey grant applicants regarding impact of health and health equity criteria on project selection, application, and implementation.	CDPH, Parks, HCD, SGC, CAL FIRE	Questionnaire, survey results	April 2012 - July 2012
3	Compile results and develop summary of results.	CDPH	Written summary	August 2012- September 2012
Objective 2. Develop recommendations to assist state agencies in incorporating health and health equity criteria into grant applications.				
4	Draft recommendations and resources for agencies interested in incorporating health and health equity into requests for proposals.	CDPH	Written recommendations	September 2012 - December 2012

CAL FIRE: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
HCD: Department of Housing and Community Development  
SGC: Strategic Growth Council

CDPH: Department of Public Health  
Parks: Department of Parks and Recreation

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## **VII. Cross Cutting Themes**

### *A. Interagency Collaboration*

This implementation plan provides important opportunities for Task Force agencies with grant programs to leverage their resources through collaboration. Agency partners will share lessons learned and best practices, share data for combined analysis, and provide input on draft recommendations and resources for other agencies interested in incorporating health and health equity into requests for proposals.

### *B. Equity*

Because health and health equity are directly linked to resources, funding decisions can have a tremendous impact upon whether and how the State supports equity, while also promoting its sustainability goals. By analyzing the current use of criteria to promote health and health equity through grant-making, and by sharing best practices and lessons learned with other agencies and departments, this implementation plan has the potential to significantly improve health and health equity outcomes statewide, across a wide range of policy areas.

### *C. Community Engagement*

The Task Force recommendation serving as the basis for this implementation plan arose in large part from community input at the Task Force's public workshops. Community members expressed interest in seeing equity play a stronger role in state funding decisions. Community organizations that have applied for funding from these state agencies will be contacted in order to learn about their experiences working with health and health equity criteria.

### *D. Data*

This project will involve collecting data from a number of sources and will provide an evidence-base for using grant criteria as a strategy to increase health equity and sustainability. Findings from this project will be shared with state agencies, departments, and offices, as well as with non-governmental organizations.

## **VIII. Evaluation**

Action steps 1-3 are themselves an evaluation of how state agencies have incorporated health and health equity into grants. This evaluation is being conducted in order to inform future efforts to promote health and health equity. This implementation plan's success will be evaluated through process measures such as timely completion of deliverables.

## **IX. Contact**

To learn more about the Health in All Policies Task Force, visit [www.sgc.ca.gov/hiap/](http://www.sgc.ca.gov/hiap/) or e-mail [HiAP@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:HiAP@cdph.ca.gov).